

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

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FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4875

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL TABRIZ

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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TEHRAN FOR PROTECTION AND WELFARE OFFICER AND DEA; DEPT OF STATE FOR
SCS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC: IR, GW, US

SUBJECT: PROTECTIVE SERVICES AMCITS TRANSPORTING AUTOS TO IRAN

REF: MUNICH 0276; TEHRAN 1444; VIENNA 1641

1) P&W OFFICER VIENNA TELEPHONED P&W OFFICER MUNICH SATURDAY
FEB 23 THAT RICHARD D. CUPELLI (SEE MUNICH REFTEL) INTERCEPTED
THAT DAY IN AUTOMOBILE CONVOY AT AUSTRIAN-JUGOSLAVIAN BORDER.
CUPELLI INFORMED CONTENTS TEHRAN'S REFTEL AND DECIDED CANCEL
TRIP TO TEHRAN AND RETURN IMMEDIATELY TO MUNICH WHERE ON FEB 25
DEBRIEFED BY P&W.

2) AUTOMOBILE CONVOY CONSISTED FOUR VEHICLES; THREE 1972 MERCEDES
BENZ SEDANS AND ONE BRAND NEW 1974 BMW; MODEL 520, TOURIST LICENSE
PLATE 858Z139. CUPELLI WAS DRIVING BMW. A JAPANESE NATIONAL NAMED
"HIRO", APPROX. 28 YEARS OLD, DROVE ONE MERCEDES BENZ, WITH
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IRANIAN NATIONAL NAMED "MAHMA", APPROX. 30 YEARS OLD; 5 FEET

7 INCHES, 150 LBS, DRIVING SECOND MERCEDES BENZ. THIRD MERCEDES BENZ DRIVEN BY IRANIAN NATIONAL MOHAMAD ALI MONTAZERIN, NICKNAMED "ALI", 32-35 YEARS OLD, 5 FEET 8 INCHES, 140-145 LBS, DARK SKINNED, SPEAKS GOOD GERMAN AND JUGOSLAVIAN. "ALI" ACCORDING CUPELLI PROBABLE LEGAL OWNER TWO MERCEDES BENZ SEDANS AND BMW. FROM ALI'S BUSINESS CARD PRINTED IN IRANIAN SCRIPT AND TRANSLATED BEST OUR ABILITY HE LISTED AS AUTOMOBILE DEALER FOR "NMAISCHKAH AUTOMOBILE RECORD GARAGE", STREET ADDRESS CHYABAN FARH SCHMAIN NBSCHER AYADANCE, TEL. NOS. 855532, 855541/2.

3) BECAUSE GROUP INTERCEPTED AT AUSTRIAN-JUGOSLAVIAN BORDER, CUPELLI, "HIRO", AND "ALI" RETURNED WITH THREE VEHICLES TO MUNICH. "MAHMA", MEANWHILE REPORTEDLY WAS ALLOWED CROSS BORDER INTO JUGOSLAVIA CONTINUING DRIVE MERCEDES BENZ TO TEHRAN. IT IS UNKNOWN LICENSE PLATE NUMBERS OF TYPE OF OWNERSHIP PAPERS HE HOLDS.

4) CUPELLI SAID "ALI" ATTEMPTED BRIBE AUSTRIAN BORDER GUARD PERMIT VEHICLES AND DRIVERS TO PASS COMMENCING WITH OFFER 100 GERMAN MARKS AND AS LAST RESORT OFFER 1000 GERMAN MARKS WHICH REFUSED OUTRIGHT BY BORDER GUARD. "ALI" ALSO PLEADED WITH CUPELLI TRY AND CONTINUE DRIVE VEHICLE AT LEAST TO ISTANBUL TURKEY WHERE HE COULD OBTAIN ANOTHER DRIVER TO GET VEHICLE INTO TEHRAN.

5) UPON RETURN MUNICH "ALI" HAD CUPELLI TELEPHONE GOBALAK WHO SPEAKS FAIR ENGLISH. THE LATTER ASKED CUPELLI WHY HE DID NOT PROCEED TO TEHRAN. WHEN CUPELLI RESPONDED EMBOFF VIENNA WARNED HIM POSSIBLE SERIOUS LEGAL DIFFICULTIES ONCE ARRIVING IN TEHRAN, GOBALAK RESPONDED ANGRILY THIS ATTITUDE "NONSENSE" AND THAT TRANSPORT PROCEEDURES HAVE BEEN USED SUCCESSFULLY "FOR A LONG TIME" AND "MANY CARS" HAVE ALREADY BEEN DRIVEN TEHRAN UNDER THIS SYSTEM WITHOUT PROBLEMS.

6) CUPELLI SAID HE FEELS GOBALAK AND HAMEDANI CLOSELY COLLABORATE THIS VEHICLE TRANSPORT OPERATION AND MAY BE FROM SAME ORGANIZATION. HAMEDANI'S OFFICE IN MUNICH PAPPENHEIMERSTRASSE 15 ABUTS GOLABAK'S TRAILER OFFICE ON KARLSTRASSE 110. CUPELLI ORIGINALLY CONFIRMED ARRANGMENTS WITH HAMEDAMI FOR DRIVING AUTOMOBILE TO TEHRAN. UPON CUPELLI'S RETURN MUNICH HE WAS ASKED BY "ALI" TALK ONLY WITH GOBALAK.

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7) SCRUTINY CUPELLI'S US PASSPORT REFLECTS NO VISA ENTRIES. APPARENTLY VISAS OBTAINED AT BORDER STOPS WHEN REQUIRED. US PASSPORTS UTILIZED BY HAMEDAMI AND GOBALAK FOR OBTAINING VEHICLE OWNERSHIP AND INSURANCE DOCUMENTATION IN NAMES OF AMCIT DRIVERS HERE IN MUNICH.

8) CUPELLI REPORTED TRUNK HIS BMW VEHICLE CONTAINED FAIRLY LARGE AMOUNT CHILDREN'S TOYS, NEW CLOTHING AND FOOD ARTICLES,

ITEMS CONSIDERED SCARCE AND EXPENSIVE IN IRAN BUT HE COULD NOT ESTABLISH THEY WERE FOR RESALE AT DESTINATION. ON TRIP CUPELLI MAINTAINED EXCELLENT RAPPART WITH JAPANESE DRIVER "HIRO", "ALI", AND "MAHMA". EXPENSES ROOM AND BOARD PAID BY "ALI" WERE VERY SATISFACTORY. "MAHMA" AND "ALI" SEEMED HAVE GOOD NUMBER IRANIAN CONTACTS ENROUTE THROUGH GERMANY AND AUSTRIA. FOR EXAMPLE, AT HOTEL ABOUT ONE AND ONE HALF HOURS VEFOR GRAZ AUSTRIA OWNED BY IRANIAN COUPLE, CUPELLI AGAIN REASSURED BY WIFE IRANIAN HOTEL OWNER THAT CUPELLI SHOULD NOT BE FEARFUL DELIVERING VEHICLE IN TEHRAN SINCE EVEN SHE AND HUSBAND HAVE SENT VEHICLES THIS MANNER TO TEHRAN ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS.

9) RELIABLE SOURCES IN MUNICH REPORTED THAT PERSONNEL EMPLOYED IRANIAN CONSUL GENEORAL MUNICH HAVE OCCASIONALLY CONTACTED HAMEDANI ARRANGE TRANSPORT VEHICLES FOR THEIR OWN FAMILY MEMBERS IN TEHRAN.

10) CUPELLI HAS NOW ABANDONED PLAN DRIVE ANY VEHICLE TEHRAN. HE FEELS CONSEQUENCES TOO SERIOUS IN CASE DIFFICULTIES
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